**Raising Sunken Ships, &c. by Air-tubes.**—Experiments for raising sunken vessels &c. by means of gutta-percha tubes have been made on the Seine, near the Bridge de l'Archeveche. Amongst others, a boat laden with between 5,000 and 6,000 kilogrammes, (from five to six tons) was sunk, and then raised with its burden by the tubes filled with air. The experiments were witnessed by Prince N. Bonaparte, and others.

**The London-bridge Railways and the Steam-boats.**—Memorials numerously signed by the directors and passengers by the London-bridge railways and river steam-boats have just been presented to the Bridge House Committee, for permission to construct a double landing-place on both sides of the Surrey arch of London-bridge, in order that passengers may avoid the danger consequent on crossing the crowded thoroughfare to the railways at the foot of London-bridge.

**New Act for School Sites.**—According to an Act now in operation, the provisions of former Acts with respect to sites for schools are extended to schools and colleges for the religious and educational training of the sons of yeomen or tradesmen, or others, or for the theological training of candidates for holy orders, of the Established Church, which are erected and maintained in part by charitable aid.

**New National Gallery.**—It is rumoured amongst those likely to know, that a certain comic artist, once renowned for his political caricatures, in conjunction with an extensive builder at Pimlico, is actually making designs, *at the request of the authorities*, for the proposed National Gallery. Can this be true? and if so, what are the architects about, to allow first a gardener, and then a caricaturist to supersede them?—Stylobate.

**Scamping Brickwork.**—A correspondent, "B. L." sends us an account of the way in which a house is being erected in the Ball's-Pond-road. The walls are filled in with rubbish, and a portion has since fallen down. Unluckily, the case is a common one. Good brickwork is the exception rather than the rule.

**The Member for Andover.**—I think it might be well if you would correct an error some time existing and still kept up in the new parliamentary lists by some of the newspapers, in the mis-identification of Mr. Wm. Cubitt, the alderman, and re-elected member for Andover, with Sir Wm. Cubitt, the distinguished past president of the Institute of Civil Engineers, who, as you know, are two distinct persons.—A. B.

**Cork as it is.**—But with all this undoubted talent, and despite the uncommon intellectual activity at Cork, the city, we grieve to say, is decidedly retrograde in point of property, even when compared with its own past standard. It is stated by Dr. Lyons, the leading man of the Liberal interest at Cork, that the present valuation of the city of Cork is between 48,000*l.* and 49,000*l.*. It is contended that the valuators have assessed the houses too low; but even allowing a margin of 25 per cent. on that score, there is still a vast positive decrease in the valuation of Cork as measured by its own standard. But take a proportion between the valuations of Cork and Belfast in 1845 and what they are now, and the relatively retrograde character of Cork is very serious to contemplate. It has produced one of the first of modern English dramatists — Sheridan Knowles. It has reared artists like Barry, Maclise, Hogan, Fisher, Grogan; literary men, like Arthur O'Leary and John O'Driscoll; lawyers and advocates; like Willes, Waggett, Goold, Bennett, and Jackson. It contributes to the Fellows of Trinity College such scholars and men of science as Butcher, Salmon, Tolekin, and Malet. It has a literature-loving population, and keen and intellectual middle class, and the professions have numbers of its sons; but these results will not keep thousands at work, like spinning yarn or bleaching linen. For one witty thing said at Belfast, there are twenty said at Cork, and with the earning of guineas the proportion is *vice versa*.—*Dublin University Magazine for July.*

**Use of Sawdust in Blasting Rock.**—The opinion of Sir John Burgoyne on this point is as follows:—Founded on the same reasoning of the advantage of more gradual ignition, and almost leading to the assumption that the blasting powder in its present state is even too good, is the assertion that will be found in all books on the subject, namely, that a mixture of fine and dry sawdust of elm or beech with the powder, in the proportion of one-third of sawdust for small charges, and one-half for large, will produce as good results as equal quantities of powder alone. It is not assumed that the effect is produced by any decomposition of the sawdust, but simply by giving a little more space, and by dividing the particles of the charge, causing them to ignite more gradually, and thus to act with greater force on the rock, than by the more sudden explosion. No account is given of any defined experiments tending to prove this fact: on the contrary, every trial affording positive results is against it; such a mixture has been tried in guns, and produced no useful effect whatever; and though of very simple application, it does not appear that in any place there has been a continued use of it. There is indeed a deception in the first instance in the supposed proportions; for a mixture of two equal measures of the two ingredients, the sawdust being, as required, very fine and dry, and the powder of the usual large grain, will not fill above one-and-three-fourths of the same measures; consequently two measures of the mixture will contain nearly one-eighth more powder than calculated upon: thus, if two measures, each capable of containing eight ounces of powder, be filled with the mixture of equal measured proportions, the quantity of powder will be nearer nine ounces than the eight calculated upon. Altogether, I feel little doubt of the application of sawdust being of no real value.

**Defective Sewerage.**—An arch under Gloucester-place, Regent's-park, it is reported, has given way from the weight of a coal waggon while passing along. The landlord of the Shepherd and Flock public-house there is said to assert, that within the last three years the road near or about the same place has given way three several times besides in the present instance. Intimation of the accident was given at Greek-street, and barriers were forthwith erected.

**Australian Malachite.**—Mr. J. C. Lanyon, of Redruth, has just received from his son in Adelaide, a very perfect specimen of this mineral, which measures 4 ft. 5 in. on its largest circumference, and 2 ft. 1 in. on its smaller, and weighs 112 lbs.

**Conversazione at the Royal Academy.**—On Wednesday evening, the 28th, the members of the Royal Academy repeated their experiment of a conversazione, to which exhibitors and numerous persons, ladies as well as gentlemen, connected with art, were invited, in lieu of a closing subscription dinner,—and, we will add, with perfect success. Many of the pictures were seen for the first time, and the whole looked so well as to induce more than one academician to consider whether it might not be desirable hereafter to have night exhibitions for the public.

**The Royal Italian Opera.**—The production here of Spohr's impressive work "Faust" has been accompanied by the effects, scenic and artistic,—as well as those of diablerie, in this case supplied with no niggard hand, —for which this establishment now stands pre-eminent, and which are looked for on the announcement of any novelty there. All are good, but we may remark the last scene of the first act, "Gulf's Castle," eventually destroyed by fire through the agency of magic; the Blocksberg, the rendezvous of the witches, and a room in *Faust's* house, with its unhappy pendant, terminating the tragedy, as being the more worthy of mention. The *Mephistopheles* of Herr Formes is a very perfect realisation: we might say, without being flippant, that it is *devilish* fine. Madlle. Anna *Zerr*, Mdme. Castellan, Sig. Ronconi, and Sig. Tamberlik, sang the principal parts, and this is saying enough. M. Jullien's opera *Pietro il Grande* is announced for next week.

## TENDERS

For the erection of the church of St. John the Evangelist, Birmingham. Mr. Pardoe, architect.

| | The Church. | Oak Seating. | Rockwork Walls. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Godfrey, Birmingham | £3,069 | — | £142 0 |
| Johnson, Loseby | 4,720 | £500 0 | 152 0 |
| Cooper, Derby | 4,488 | — | 213 0 |
| Gaunterton, Worcester | 4,700 | — | 195 0 |
| Briggs, Birmingham | 4,695 | 300 0 | 130 0 |
| Dorton | 4,379 | — | 154 0 |
| Pumby | 4,186 | 262 0 | 135 0 |
| Burdwick | 4,017 | 237 10 | 130 10 |
| Wilson, Handsworth | 4,049 | 240 0 | 120 0 |

For Commercial Docks, Rotherhithe. Messrs. Walker and Burgess, engineers.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hutchins | £162,513 |
| Wythes | 157,025 |
| Thompson | 156,220 |
| Jackson and Bean | 154,441 |
| Branney | 153,581 |
| G. Smith | 147,250 |
| Jay | 143,741 |
| Lee and Son | 140,080 |
| Baker and Son | 137,690 |
| Thompson | 135,840 |
| Rigby | 129,722 |
| Myers | 129,300 |
| Kelk | 128,573 |

For erecting four dwelling-houses at Waltham Cross, Herts. Mr. W. Humber, architect.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rush and Son | £1,297 |
| Watts | 1,194 |
| W. Cooper | 1,160 |
| Walker and Soper | 1,135 |
| Mumble | 1,041 |

N.B.—Part of the materials furnished.

For the erection of public hall, Wigan. Quantities furnished. Mr. R. Lane, architect.

| | |
|---|---|
| Farrell and Griffiths, Salford | £3,537 0 |
| Gregson, Young, and Co. Wigan | 3,385 11 |
| Thomas Stone, Newton | 3,318 10 |
| James Fairclough, Wigan (accepted) | 3,240 8 |

Other tenders were received for portions of the work.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"An Architect," "T. B. D." (the information came from head-quarters), "H. W. J.," "Mr. B.," "S. W." (it shall appear), "C. R. S.," "A. C.," "A Subscriber," "C. E. J." (we are forced uniformly to decline), "Don" (ditto), "S. S. T.," "W. L.," "H. E. A." (not in town in time), "F. W. O.," "J. A. B.," "C. G." (an assistant may be what is termed "a good draughtsman" without being an originator; we are unable to offer any opinion as to the value of our correspondent's services), "Proprietor" (employ an architect at once: it is better to be prevented from *getting* into a mess than to be got out of one), "G. A." (we are compelled uniformly to decline recommending), "Mr. L.," "G. A." (declined with thanks), "H. D.," "D. R.," "E. S.," "H. C. B." (inadvertently printed), "J. L. H.," "W. A." (under our mark), "W. C." (ditto), "J. H. G.," "W. P.," "W. D." (various remedies have been given in our pages, from time to time), "W. G.," "E. L. G.," "Justice," "A Non-competitor" (should have given his name).

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

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## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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| | |
|---|---|
| HHHH for drawing on wood. | F Light and shading for general use. |
| HHH for architectural use. | B black for shading. |
| HH for engineering. | BB ditto ditto |
| H for sketching. | BBB ditto ditto |
| HB hard and black for drawing. | BBBB ditto ditto |
| M medium. | |

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